

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00980 271521Z
ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /033 W
-----057873 271527Z /43

P 271508Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3265
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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BRUSSELS, PARIS, FRANKFURT FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: MADRID 894

1. AS RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SPANISH CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY OFFICIALS DURING JANUARY 24-25 VISIT OF THOMAS BELL, CHIEF FOREIGN AIR CARRIER SECURITY, FAA, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED DETAILS OF SPANISH PLANS FOR EQUIPPING AIRPORTS WITH MODERN SECURITY DEVICES. GOVERNMENT TENDER WILL BE ANNOUNCED ABOUT JANUARY 27 FOR THIRTY X-RAY MACHINES AND THIRTY MAGNETOMETERS FOR SCREENING OF PASSENGERS AND HAND PARCELS. EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED IN AIRPORTS AT MADRID (6), BARCELONA (3), PALMA DE MALLORCA (5), LAS PALMAS (4), MALAGA (3), TENERIFE (3), IBIZA (2), AND ONE SET EACH AT ALICANTE, GERONA, LANZAROTE AND FUERTEVENTURA. TOTAL MAXIMUM COST OF EQUIPMENT IS SET AT 300 MILLION PESETAS (ABOUT \$3.75 MILLION) (NOTE: TRADE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN SENT TO USDOC).

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PAGE 02 MADRID 00980 271521Z

2. EMBOFF WAS ALSO TOLD THAT AS OF APRIL 1, 1978, SPANISH POLICE WILL TAKE OVER PASSENGER SCREENING DUTY FROM PRIVATE FIRM WHICH HAS BEEN ON CONTRACT FOR THIS WORK IN PAST. THERE ARE NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO CHARGE EITHER INDIVIDUAL PASSENGERS OR AIRLINES FEE FOR THIS SERVICE, ACCORDING TO SPANISH OFFICIALS.

3. ALTHOUGH PRIMARY EMPHASIS WILL BE ON INCREASED SECURITY FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, SPANISH ALSO PLAN TO TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR SECURITY OF DOMESTIC FLIGHTS, INCLUDING EXPENDITURE OF ESTIMATED 50 MILLION PESETAS (\$625,000) FOR NEW EQUIPMENT. SPANISH ARE AWARE THAT OTHER MEASURES MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IN ADDITION TO PASSENGER SCREENING, SUCH AS AIRPORT PERIMETER SECURITY, RAMP SECURITY, ETC. BOTH IBERIA AIRLINES AND CIVIL AVIATION ARE COOPERATING IN EFFORT, INCLUDING SEEKING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE OF FAA.

4. COMMENT: SPANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN PROMPTED TO TAKE ACTION IN THIS AREA NOT ONLY BY THREAT TO TOURISM INDUSTRY POSED BY INCREASING REPUTATION OF SPANISH AIRPORTS AS "INSECURE" BUT ALSO BY GROWING POSSIBILITY OF DOMESTIC SPANISH TERRORISTS TURNING TO AIRCRAFT HIJACKINGS OR BOMBINGS. SPANISH PRESS JANUARY 23 REPORTED INCREASED POLICE VIGILANCE AT PALMA AND IN CANARYS AFTER THREATS AGAINST AIRLINES BY "A RADICAL TERRORIST GROUP". EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE SPANISH COOPERATION WITH FAA INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM VISIT THIS SPRING. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID00980
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0059
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780115/aaaaalyx.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 06b070df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION FAA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MADRID 894
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3702116
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE AIRPORT SECURITY
TAGS: EAIR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/06b070df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014